

Daydreaming paid for by Kathryn

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# 'THE HEIGHTS'

## Activism & Engagement in WH

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### Brilliant Idea

Every once and awhile I happen across some really fun, cool ideas that other cities are doing. I offer these up to you to spur your own daydreaming or get inspired to act and do something fabulous in The Heights. Check out Davenport's brilliant idea [here](#).

### Walkability and Transportation Engagement Opportunity!

(That was a mouthful) Do you feel passionate about Windsor Heights being a walkable community? Have ideas on the transportation dynamics in our city? As part of the city's Comprehensive Plan Study planners are conducting a focus group to get the skinny from residents on these issues. Here are the details:

[Walkability & Transportation Focus Group](#)

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

**5:00-6:15pm**

**City Hall- 1145 66<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1**

**Please RSVP to Sheena Nuetzman ([snuetzman@windsorheights.com](mailto:snuetzman@windsorheights.com)) or at [515-645-6826](tel:515-645-6826).**

After the recent election I can tell you that walkability, sidewalks and transportation, both traditional and alternative, remain REALLY important issues to our community. Rarely have I seen an issue galvanize so much passion in our small town. Therefore it's critical to participate in groups like this to engage with your neighbors. It's through this type of collaboration that we can share innovative ideas and find common ground solutions.

## **Paid For by Me**

Thank you all for rallying to give Zac Bayles Henry a resounding defeat of Charlene Butz in the runoff election. It's a testament to Zac's hard work and our community's strong desire for change. It is indeed a new day in the Heights. As someone who has lived here for 43 years, I can't remember a time I've been more excited for our city (except when I was 4 and the water fights were on during 4th of July).

In a testament to the pettiness of small-town politics, I recently received a letter from the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board regarding my last email advocating that you vote in the runoff election, in my humble opinion, for Zac Bayles Henry. Apparently someone felt I was crossing the line by sending out an email to my friends, family, colleagues and neighbors supporting Zac and anonymously, hand-delivered a copy of my email to the "election cops."

After a pleasant and enlightening conversation with the IECDB, I have learned that indeed I was crossing the line. Private citizens cannot send an email to their friends,

family, colleagues and neighbors supporting a candidate without saying 'Paid for by Kathryn Dickel (in this case). ' Yep, you're reading this right. Yep, I laughed too. The irony of this, considering the legally anonymous nature of most campaign financing in this country, is just too perfect not to laugh at.

So it was my unknown error for not saying "paid for by Kathryn Dickel" at the bottom of that email, even though I don't pay, or get paid, anything to send you this email. I can however post whatever I want on my social media pages as long as I don't actually create a page explicitly for a candidate. I can spend less than \$100 AND only support a ballot initiative with that sum in an election and be in the clear too. Otherwise I must add "paid for by Kathryn Dickel" on my correspondence if it references a candidate in a positive or negative light. Consider yourself informed my fellow patriots!

After reading the code, and chatting with the IECDB, it is pretty clear to me that they are not intended to silence the voice of a private citizen, but to uphold some control over undo influence from the structural players in our election process. This, indeed, would not have been an instance the board would have pursued independently. With that in mind, I am left with the feeling that unfortunately, this childish perversion of the code seems to be an attempt to intimidate me and thereby silence my voice.

But as I mentioned earlier, it is a new day in The Heights. If we can change anything here, let's start with throwing out the gossip, back-stabbing, polite intimidation and political evasiveness that has paralyzed our city for 8 years. Let's speak forthrightly and respectfully to each other, especially when we disagree, with clear voices and open ears. Let's welcome dialog on multiple channels and from diverse perspectives. That is what I will continue to do and consider it a blessing that I don't seem to just be preaching to the choir anymore.

**This message, and all previous ones, are paid for by Kathryn Dickel.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat." with a period at the end. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'K' and a cursive 'at'.

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